

Message Text

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INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LISBON

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EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CASC, BE, CU, PO, VT

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1. ON JAN 15, ILLING CALLED ON MSGR. ERRIQUENZ, VATICAN DESK OFFICER FOR CUBA WHO NOW HANDLING LUNT CASE, TO SEE IF NUNCIA-TURE IN HAVANA HAD REPORTED AND TO INFORM ERRIQUENZ THAT WAINWRIGHT WOULD BE IN ROME FOLLOWING DAY. SOURCE SAID THAT JUST BEFORE CHRISTMAS VATICAN HAD SENT ITS CHARGE IN HAVANA, BISHOP CESARE ZACCHI, INSTRUCTIONS TO MAKE DEMARCHE ON LUNT'S BEHALF. DEMARCHE WAS TO EMPHASIZE HUMANITARIAN ASPECTS, PARTICULARLY PHYSICAL CONDITION OF LUNT'S MOTHER, AND MAKE NO MENTION OF US INTEREST. ZACCHI HAS NOT YET REPORTED, BUT SOURCE PROMISED TO INFORM US AS SOON AS WORD RECEIVED FROM HAVANA. ERRIQUENZ SAID ZACCHI KNOWS POLITICAL ATMOSPHERE IN HAVANA EXTREMELY WELL AND COULD BE COUNTED ON TO CHOOSE BEST POSSIBLE MOMENT FOR MAKING HIS DEMARCHE.

2. SOURCE SAID PAPAL NUNCIO IN LISBON, ARCHBISHOP SENSI, HAD ASKED PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT IN DECEMBER ABOUT POSSIBILITY OF EXCHANGING PERALTA FOR LUNT. PORTUGUESE REPLIED THAT PERALTA EXTREMELY WICKED INDIVIDUAL WHO PLAYED SIGNIFICANT ROLE IN INSURGENT ACTIVITY AGAINST PORTUGUESE FORCES, AND THAT HE WAS NEITHER COVERED BY RECENT AMNESTY NOR COULD GOP CONSIDER RELEASING HIM FOR AMERICAN CITIZEN HELD IN CUBA REGARDLESS OF OBVIOUS HUMANI-
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TARIAN ASPECTS OF CASE. ERRIQUENZ SAID ALTHOUGH VATICAN RECALLED THAT WE HAD INFORMED THEM THAT OUR LATEST INITIATIVE DID NOT INVOLVE PORTUGUESE, ARCHBISHOP CASAROLI HAD NONETHELESS ASKED SENSI TO MAKE DEMARCHE TO GOP.

3. ERRIQUENZ SAID HE SAW NO REASON WHY HE NEEDED TO SEE WAINWRIGHT BUT ASKED ILLING TO INFORM WAINWRIGHT THAT HIS LETTER TO THE APOSTOLIC DELEGATION IN WASHINGTON HAD BEEN FORWARDED TO VATICAN AND THAT, AS SOON AS AN ANSWER IS RECEIVED FROM ZACCHI IN HAVANA, A REPORT WOULD BE SENT TO WAINWRIGHT, ONCE AGAIN VIA APOSTOLIC DELEGATION IN WASHINGTON.

4. ON JAN 16, WAINWRIGHT TELEPHONED MSGR. RIGALI, AMERICAN OFFICIAL IN VATICAN SECRETARIAT OF STATE, WHOSE NAME HE RECEIVED FROM MSGR. WHELAN OF APOSTOLIC DELEGATION. RIGALI, WHO IN NO WAY INVOLVED IN LUNT CASE, TOLD WAINWRIGHT THAT HE COULD NOT HELP HIM AND SUGGESTED THAT MATTER BE DEALT WITH BY LETTER THROUGH APOSTOLIC DELEGATION IN WASHINGTON. FOLLOWING THIS UNSUCCESSFUL ATTEMPT TO DISCUSS HIS CLIENT'S CASE WITH VATICAN, WAINWRIGHT CALLED ON ILLING WHO BROUGHT HIM UP TO DATE ON LATEST VATICAN EFFORTS ON LUNT'S BEHALF. ILLING THEN CALLED VATICAN AND ASKED IF SOMEONE COULD RECEIVE WAINWRIGHT AND WAS TOLD THAT REQUEST WOULD HAVE TO BE DISCUSSED WITH SUPERIORS. LATER IN AFTERNOON, ILLING WAS INFORMED THAT ARCHBISHOP CASAROLI PREFERRED TO KEEP MATTER IN DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS AND THEREFORE, DID NOT CARE FOR ANY OF HIS SUBORDINATES TO DISCUSS MATTER WITH WAINWRIGHT OR ANY OTHER PRIVATE PARTY. SINCE WAINWRIGHT SEEMED SATISFIED THAT VATICAN DOING EVERYTHING IT POSSIBLY CAN FOR LUNT, HE TOOK THIS REFUSAL WITH GOOD GRACE, BUT ASKED THAT ILLING PROVIDE VATICAN WITH LATEST DETAILS CONCERNING CONDITION OF LUNT'S MOTHER AND RECENT EFFORTS WAINWRIGHT HAS MADE WITH CUBAN EMBASSY OTTAWA. ILLING AGREED TO DO SO.

5. WHILE WAINWRIGHT WAS IN ILLING'S OFFICE, BELGIAN AMBASSADOR TO HOLY SEE, DE MERODE, CALLED TO SAY HE HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED BY BRUSSELS TO GET IN TOUCH WITH WAINWRIGHT. WAINWRIGHT THEN AGREED TO SEE DE MERODE SAME AFTERNOON AND THEY HAD ONE-HOUR DISCUSSION AT CONCLUSION OF WHICH DE MERODE EXPRESSED HIS WILLINGNESS TO MAKE ANOTHER DEMARCHE WITH VATICAN SHOULD WAINWRIGHT THINK THAT WOULD BE USEFUL. (FYI - PREVIOUS BELGIAN AMBASSADOR HAD RAISED LUNT CASE AT VATICAN.) WAINWRIGHT SAID
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THAT, FOLLOWING HIS VISIT TO LISBON AND AFTER BISHOP ZACCHI REPORTED TO VATICAN, IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO TAKE ANOTHER GOOD LOOK "TO SEE WHERE WE STAND AND DECIDE WHAT IS NEXT TO BE DONE."

6. COMMENT: WAINWRIGHT CONDUCTED HIMSELF IN QUIET, LOW-KEY MANNER AND SEEMED ACUTELY AWARE THAT IT BEST NOT TO PUSH WHERE SOMEONE ALREADY DOING WHAT CAN REASONABLY BE EXPECTED. HE SEEMED TO FEEL THAT BEST CHANCE NOW IS TO FIND SOME WAY OF INDUCING PORTUGUESE TO RELEASE PERALTA. WHILE HE REALIZED THAT USG DOES NOT WISH TO MAKE CONCESSIONS TO GOP FOR PERALTA RELEASE, HE HOPEFUL THAT GOP MAY BE ENCOURAGED TO MAKE HUMANITARIAN GESTURE, ESPECIALLY IF SOME PORTUGUESE BEING HELD BY PAIGC COULD BE RELEASED. VOLPE

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